

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 674

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William James Peeler of Waverly.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of William Peeler; and

WHEREAS, William James "Bill" Peeler was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished attorney, Mr. Peeler enjoyed a highly successful career in the legal profession, establishing his law practice in 1952 in Waverly, a practice which continues as Porch, Peeler, Williams and Thomason; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Humphreys County, Bill Peeler was the son of Ezra Herbert and Beulah Wells Peeler of McEwen; he graduated from Cumberland University School of Law in 1952; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peeler proudly answered his country's call to duty, serving in the United States Army from 1946-47, performing his duty with the combat engineers with valor and honor before receiving his honorable discharge; and

WHEREAS, a recognized leader in the McEwen community throughout his lifetime, Bill Peeler served as a City Councilman in McEwen at the age of twenty-one and would later serve as the County Attorney for Humphreys County; and

WHEREAS, active in Democratic politics, Mr. Peeler was a former State President of the Young Democratic Club of Tennessee and served as General Counsel for the Young Democratic Clubs of America; and

WHEREAS, a former member of this Body, Bill Peeler was a member of the House of Representatives of the 81st and 82nd General Assemblies, serving from 1959 until 1963, and a

member of the Senate during the 85th, 86th, 87th and 88th General Assemblies, serving from 1967 until 1975; and

WHEREAS, Senator Peeler ably stood as Majority Leader of the Tennessee State Senate during the 87th and 88th General Assemblies, proudly representing the citizens of Senate District 23, comprised of Benton, Decatur, Dickson, Hickman, Humphreys, Perry, Wayne, and Williamson counties; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the General Assembly, he ushered into law numerous acts which have been beneficial to the people of Tennessee, but he believed his finest contribution to public service was the legislation he wrote and sponsored which established the statewide system of General Sessions Courts; and

WHEREAS, during his legislative career he received numerous accolades, including several selections by the press as one of the most outstanding members of the legislature; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed member of his profession, Mr. Peeler was a member of the American Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, Humphreys County Bar Association, and the American Judicature Society; he was a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers; and

WHEREAS, Bill Peeler served on the Board of Trust of Cumberland University and was the recipient of his alma mater's highest award, the Award of the Phoenix, for his service and dedication; and

WHEREAS, a member of Tennessee's Bicentennial Commission Board of Directors, Mr. Peeler served on the boards of numerous civic and charitable organizations, sharing his keen insight and experience; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, Mr. Peeler was preceded in death by his beloved wife, the former Nancy Bradley, and is survived by his three daughters and their spouses, Nannette Peeler Bradley and William David Bradley, Jeana Peeler Hosch and Heyward C. Hosch III, and Jacqueline Peeler Safstrom and Douglas Edward Safstrom; and

WHEREAS, an adoring paternal influence, he will be fondly remembered by his treasured grandchildren, Kendra Goddard Melnyk, Katherine Goddard Bryan, Mary Bradley

Hosch Anderson, Sarah Fuqua Eaves, William Peeler Fuqua, and Caroline Carithers Peeler Hosch; and his great-grandchildren, Madison Lea Melnyk and Lillian Katherine Bryan; and

WHEREAS, greatly respected and deeply admired by his many friends and colleagues, Mr. Peeler was truly a gentleman and scholar who loved Tennessee and took great pride in making his community and State a better place for all; his unmatched record in public service and the legal profession stands as a monument to a life well lived; and

WHEREAS, William James Peeler leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and graciousness and generosity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of William James Peeler, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a legislator, public servant, and human being, and commend his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Peeler.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.